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H – 926

International Court of Justice

COMMISSION

H0926-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

~~Thursday~~
Friday, 31 May 1946

COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. Igor V. Rasumov
Capt Joseph Tubridy

THE S.A.

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours.)

HANS OBERLINDOBER resumed the witness-stand and testified further as follows:

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q You are reminded that you are still under oath.

A Yes.

BY DR. RUDOLF ASCHENAUER:

Q With what Socialist circles in France did you have contact?

A They were not actually socialistic circles, even though there were strong socialistic tendencies in all of these groups . The Union Federal, for instance, and especially its president Henri Pichot, were very close to the radical socialists, and their president, Eduard Daladier.

Q How was the attitude of ~~XXXXX~~ Francois Poincet and ~~Xerriot~~ Herriot concerning all this --

M. HENRI MONNERAY: I don't want to interpose and interrupt, but I think it would be better to ask the witness

what sort of tendencies and action he took and not to ask him about the tendencies of Herriot and Daladier and so on.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The point is, Mr. Aschanauer, that we are interested in the tendencies of the SA and their representatives and we would like to have questioning directed along that line rather than the one you have started to pursue.

DR. ASCHENAUER: The reason I have to follow this line of questioning right now is that I have to answer the objection of the Russian representative, made yesterday, in which he stated that only connection with Fascist groups in France was sought. After this one question I will go over into the action ~~and attitude~~ and the attitude of the S.A.

COLONEL DMITRI KAREV: We are at present not interested in the actions of various groups but what we are interested in at the present is the criminal organizations that are here being defended, and it is those groups that we would like to talk about, and not all different groups or organizations.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Mr. Aschenauer, will you please pursue the line of questioning I have just suggested, directed to the activities of the S.A., and not to groups other than those --

~~DR. ASCHENAUER~~

Q I will just ask, how did the S.A. assist this attempt at cooperation?

A Through the sending of Obergruppenfuehrer Mayer-Quade

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to the various lodge meetings and mass-meetings, through the sending of Obergruppenfuehrer Juettner and Mayer-Quade to talks and discussions, through articles in the paper, "Der S.A. Fuehrer," and through participation of larger honorary units during ceremonies by various war veteran organizations.

Q Did this attempt ~~xx~~ come under the heading of Fascist attempted world domination?

A No, just the opposite. This meeting, this cooperation, was supposed to bring about a permanent ~~xxxx~~ friendship among all.

Q Would you tell us briefly the various visits that occurred, these attempts at establishing close friendships?

A There were various German delegations to the yearly meetings of some of these organizations, for instance, of the yearly meeting of the Union Federal in ~~xxxxx~~ Pariplace and Aix-le-Bains, and two visits by French delegation to the yearly meeting the Kriegsopferversorgung , which is the organization for aid to war victims. And various visits during the Reichskriegertagung, the Reich war veterans' organization, in Kassel.

Q What year was the first attempt at contact?

A 1934.

Q On the 12th, that is the 13th of July, 1936, a meeting occurred of the old Verdun fighters, or participators.

Q Was this meeting supposed to have a symbolic background, motive?

A I myself did not participate in this meeting, because I

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left the old Dumont Fighter the honor of leading the German delegation -- Hauptmann (Captain)Brandeis. But I myself with Henri Pichot prepared this meeting and selected the German delegation. On the occasion of this meeting on the graves of Duamont a ceremony took place. And the participants took a symbolic oath. And that way the war veterans will attempt with all their moral support to bring together the nations and that in the future war should not be the way of settling unsettled problems. On the 14th of July, 1937, at a speech in Freiburg im Breisgau, I stated that after the solution of the Saar question there was no more territorial questions to be settled.

Q Was this actually earnestly meant by you?

A This was the occasion of a French delegation from Besausin and Montbillard.

Q You were of the opinion that there had to be peace on the Rhine in order to have a settled Europe?

A True, I supposed that the century-old squabble between Germany and France could be ended through the meeting and discussion of the war veterans.

Q Did these discussions only concern themselves with the German-French sector?

A No, my French comrades introduced me into the international war veterans organizations, the Fidaque Ciamaque. Through that I was able to meet quite a number of international war veterans from all over.

This discussion or this meeting was preceded by a visit

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of a delegation from the British Legion in Germany. This British delegation was under the direction of the Chairman, Major Sir Francis Featherstone-Godley. During these discussions at the Fidaque and Ciamaque in Paris I met representatives of the following nations:

Greece, Captain Nikolaides; Yugoslavia, Colonel Nedich, Dr. Lovrich; Poland, General Roman Goretzkix, General Secretary Kasimirerz Smogorscewski, Major Lydyga Lasckowski, Major Wagner; Belgium, De Pratere, Kherkovs; Hungary, General Graf Takacs-Tlfey --

LT. COMMANDER FREDERICK FELTON: I wonder whether you could have the witness spell these names. I am at a complete loss for their spelling.

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q Do you have a list of these names?

A Yes, I have it right here.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Then the names may be given first for the record, and the list may be obtained later for correct spellings. We don't want the names read off the list but the names will be given by the witness and the list submitted later.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

A (Continuing) Roumania, General Dimescu, Dr. Ispir; Bulgaria, General Nikiforoff, Robeff; Austria, Colonel Baron von Waldstetten; Czechoslovakia, Dr. Lockay. And also during the meeting of the Fidaque I met the American observer from the American Government, a Dr. Ragner.

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BY DR. ASCHENAUER:

Q What was the development of the meeting with the Polish war veterans?

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q Just a minute. Is that the complete list of names?

A That is the complete list.

Q All right, will you pass it on to the Prosecution so that they may take the names down?

A (The list was handed to the members of the ~~REXXEX~~ Prosecution.) ~~The~~

BY DR. ASCHENAUER:

Q You may answer the question.

A The first meeting with the Polish war veterans was concerned the Kriegsopferversorgung, or the organization for the victims of the war -- war victims' welfare. The President of the Polish Welfare Organization for War Victims visited me in Berlin -- Major Wagner, in order to discuss and exchange information on this subject in this field. After the meeting with the Fidaque I came to a very close personal friendship with General Goretzki and Kasimirerz Smogorscewski, and it was agreed that delegates were to visit the two nations. And therefore two delegates, one under the Council of Coburg and one under my direction, visited Poland for the duration of about one week. Two Polish delegations under the direction of the Majors Wagner and Ludyga Lasckowski visited the German comrades for several days. The discussions had as their goal a starting of friendly relations between the two nations. That was especially interesting in the person of a Dr. Uretski who is the President of the Bankapostbadafska, regarded as an enemy

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of Germany. And General Dr. Goretzski visited me in Berlin at that time, and I also had a longer discussion with the President of the German Reichsbank, Dr. Schacht, in which he talked especially of the need and the usefulness of a cooperation and friendship between the two war veterans organizations of Germany and Poland.

Q Did a German-French and German-English association grow out of these attempts?

A The German war veterans were co-founders of these organizations. And I am certain that the preparatory work done by these war veterans served to come to a closer friendship and cooperation between the countries. Both the French and the English war veterans aided in setting up the respective groups, that is, the Committee France-Allemande and the Anglo-German Fellowship.

Q Is it so that the men who knew the war of 1914-1918, and who were heavily represented in the S.A., attempted very hard to prevent another catastrophe of this sort?

A Yes. I as President of ~~the~~ one of the welfare organizations for the victims of the war, who saw the injuries to the mind and person that had not healed yet, and as one who saw the socialist tendencies, ideals, of the S.A., had to attempt everything. We realized that the unity among the Germans was started in 1933 would not be only stopped but ~~may~~ MIGHT be smashed for always by another war. We were of the same idea as our comrades from the other ~~French~~ trenches. That is why these discussions by the various war veterans had such a great

repercussion among the men of the S.A., the Party and the entire German people.

Q When were the last visits?

A The last visit in Britain was in the fall of 1938. A delegation of 1,000 German war veterans were the guests of the British Legion and they were welcomed through a speech by Sir Thomas Inskip at Westminster Hall. The last visit from a French delegation was that of Henri Pichot, who together with Daladier took part at the Munich meeting.

Q Was the starting of the war a surprise?

A Yes. It meant the end of our friendship and our cooperation upon which we had placed a lot of hope. We knew that this was would interrupt if not completely end the interior development of Germany. I looked very strongly upon the cooperation between the various war veterans and I am certain that until the last moment these same hopes were carried by the comrades of other nations.

DR. ASCHENAUER: Thank you. I have no further questions.

BY DR. GEORG BOEHM:

Q Did the S.A. aid your attempts of friendship and cooperation with the other nations?

Q Were other high S.A. officials with you during these talks with foreign veterans' organizations?

A Yes. I stated before already that during these talks and discussions Obergruppenfuehrer Juettner and Obergruppenfuehrer Mayer-Quade were constant delegates --

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Q But --

A I am not finished with the answer yet. The Chief of staff many times had Obergruppenfuehrer Mayer-Quade and myself report to him concerning these discussions and he was of the opinion that the high morale -- high views--that these men had in their countries would lead to closer and friendlier cooperation among all.

Q Were these persons who talked with leading personalities in the foreign war victim welfare organizations?

A Yes, it was usually always the Presidents, and from the international organizations, virtually all Presidents and x Vice-Presidents.

Q Did these discussions have a political character?

A No, it was the idea of the war veterans to clear up the field, or an understanding among people so that the politics then could take over.

Q You said before that in the fall of 1938 a thousand members of the war victims welfare organization visited England.

A There were 500 men of the victims organization and 500 of the Reichskriegerbund -- Reich War Veterans.

Q Were among these also S.A. men?

A Quite a few.

DR. BOEHM: Thank you. I have no further questions.

MR. ANTHONY MARRECO: No questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY M. MONNERAY:

Q Could you state once more what your exact position was inside of the SA main office?

A I was Obergruppenfuehrer ZBE, for special use, which

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was an honorary post, and I first of all aided the S.A. in its social attempts. I was an aide to Obergruppenfuehrer Kraemer who was in charge of the social aspects of the S.A.

Q So --

A I also in the name of the SA built the Dankopfer-siedlungen, the victims thanks settlements.

Q So you were not an appointed official of the main office.

A No.

Q You were only a sort of private adviser, collaborator, of the main office.

A Yes.

Q When you went to Paris did you get in touch with the German Embassy in Paris?

A During my first visit to Paris I visited the German Embassy. And during the meetings of the Committee France-Allemande mostly gentlemen from the French organization were invited to the German Embassy.

Q Did you meet Monsieur de Brinau?

A Yes.

Q Did you meet Mr. Avetz?

A Yes.

Q Before leaving for your trips abroad, from whom did you get your instructions?

A Usually there were no instructions. I only reported to the aide of Hitler, Ribbentrop.

Q You did not receive any information, any instruction from Ribbentrop's office?

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A He always said that we should attempt as much as possible to come to a personal closed friendship, and that was my idea, too.

Q Do you know Boehle? Did you meet him?

A Yes.

Q On what occasion?

A Usually during the large meetings of the N.S.D.A.P.

Q Did you have contact with the Propaganda Ministry?

A With the Propaganda Ministry only a little.

Q What do you mean by a little?

A I mostly had to do with the Reich Propaganda Office of the NSDAP.

Q Did you meet Rosenberg?

A Yes, but not concerning his foreign policies.

Q On what sector?

A The same way I met Mr. Boehle during these official Party demonstrations.

M. MONNERAY: I have no further questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COLONEL DMITRI KAREV:

Q Did I understand you correctly, that you said that you got in contact with various foreign organizations and parties upon the orders of Fascist powers?

A I wish the Prosecution would explain to me what they understand by "Fascist powers."

Q Did you get your orders from Hitler's Government or not?

A I did not --

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Q -- or from --

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Just a minute. Did we get the witness's last answer in English?

THE INTERPRETER: No.

Q -- or from the representatives of the Fascist powers.

A I did not have any kind of Government orders or mission.

Q You mean was it possible for you to carry out your personal activity without orders from your Government?

A It was not a question of foreign policy or politics, but all it was, was our attempt to clean the atmosphere between the various nations in order to give the learned diplomats and politicians of those governments a chance to get together afterward.

Q So you want to say that it was possible for you to be connected with other foreign governments without any orders from the Hitler Government?

A I stated previously that I did not receive any orders from any government.

Q Don't you think that your meetings with Ribbentrop and then with the Minister of Propaganda were on his instructions?

A At the time I received these orders from Ribbentrop, Ribbentrop was not the Foreign Minister, nor was he the Ambassador to Britain; but just the foreign policy aide to Hess, in his capacity as Hitler's representative.

Q So you met Ribbentrop as a representative of the

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nation, from the party --

A Yes, certainly.

Q So the work towards settling friendship with other peoples, with other nations, was only camouflage for the aggressive plans of the Hitlerian Government and the National Socialist Party.

DR. ASCHENAUER: I object to this question.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: It is a proper question on cross-examination.

Q Witness, you must know.

A I want to say that I am certain that both Rudolf and Hess and Ribbentrop were earnestly believing that a way of such international cooperation was possible. That was my idea, too. And I still say today that I believe that such a cooperation and friendship is possible.

COLONEL KAREV: You see, the witness doesn't know about these facts, which are known to everybody -- about the aggressive policies of the Government. So the witness can't answer to these questions.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: There are no further questions, Colonel Karev?

(There were no further questions from Colonel Karev.)

LT. COMMANDER FELTON: No questions.

DR. ASCHENAUER: Likewise, I have no further questions.

(The witness was excused, at 1100 hours.)

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of Hans Oberlindober, taken on 31 May 1946.

Reporter (13 pp.)

CERTIFIED TO:

Commissioner

H0926-0016

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

Friday, 31 May 1946

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Capt. Joseph Tubridy

THE S.A.

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Q You are reminded that you are still under oath.

A Yes.

BY DR. RUDOLF ASCHENAUER:

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A They were not actually Socialistic circles, even though there were strong socialistic tendencies in all of these groups. The Union Federal, for instance, and especially its president Henri Pichot, were very close to the radical socialists, and their president, Eduard Daladier.

Q How was the attitude of Francois Poincet and Herriot concerning all this --

M. HENRI HONNERAY: I don't want to interpose and interrupt, but I think it would be better to ask the witness what sort of tendencies and action he took and not to ask him about the tendencies of Herriot and Daladier and so on.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The point is, Mr. Aschenauer, that we are interested in the tendencies of the SA and their representatives and we would like to have questioning directed along that line rather than the one you have started to pursue.

DR. ASCHENAUER: The reason I have to follow this line of questioning right now is that I have to answer the objection of the Russian representative made yesterday, in which he stated that only connection with Fascist groups in France was sought. After this one question I will go over into the

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action and the attitude of the S.A.

COLONEL DMITRI KAREV: We are at present not interested in the actions of various groups but what we are interested in at the present is the criminal organizations that are here being defended, and it is those groups that we would like to talk about, and not all different groups or organizations.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Mr. Aschenauer, will you please pursue the line of questioning I have just suggested, directed to the activities of the S.A., and not to groups other than those --

Q I will just ask, how did the S.A. assist this attempt at cooperation?

A Through the sending of Obergruppenfuehrer Mayer-Quade to the various lodge meetings and mass-meetings, through the sending of Obergruppenfuehrer Juettner and Mayer-Quade to talks and discussions, through articles in the paper, "Der S.A. Fuehrer," and through participation of larger honorary units during ceremonies by various war veteran organizations.

Q Did this attempt come under the heading of Fascist attempted world domination?

A No, just the opposite. This meeting, this cooperation, was supposed to bring about a permanent friendship among all.

Q Would you tellus briefly the various visits that occurred, these attempts at establishing close friendships?

A There were various German delegations to the yearly meetingsof some of these organizations, for instance, of the yearly meeting of the Union Federal in Pariplace and Aix-le-Bains, and two visits by French delegation to the yearly meeting of the Kriegsopferversorgung, which is the organization for aid to war victims. And various visits during the Reichskriegertagung, the Reich war veterans' organization, in Kassel.

Q What year was the first attempt at contact?

A 1934.

Q On the 12th, that is the 13th of July, 1936, a meeting occurred of the old Verdun fighters, or participators.

Q Was this meeting supposed to have a symbolic background, motive?

A I myself did not participate in this meeting, because I left the

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old Dumont Fighter the honor of leading the German delegation - Hauptmann (Captain) Brandeis. But I myself with Henri Pichot prepared this meeting and selected the German delegation. On the occasion of this meeting on the graves of Duamont a ceremony took place. And the participants took a symbolic oath. And that way the war veterans will attempt with all their moral support to bring together the nations and that in the future war shuuld not be the way of settling unsettled problems. On the 14th of July, 1937, at a speech in Freiburg im Breisgau, I stated that after the solution of the Saar question there was no more territorial questions to be settled.

Q Was this actually earnestly meant by you?

A This was the occasion of a French delegation from Besausin and Montbillard.

Q You were of the opinion that there had to be peace on the Rhine in order ot have a settled Europe?

A True, I supposed that the century-old squabble between Germany and France could be ended through the meeting and discussion of the war veterans.

Q Did these discussions only concern themselves with the German-French sector?

A No, my French comrades introduced me into the international war veterans organizations, the Fidaque Ciamaque. Through that I was able to meet quite a number of international war veterans from all over.

This discussion or this meeting was preceded by a visit

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of a delegation from the British Legion in Germany. This British delegation was under the direction of the Chairman, Major Sir Francis Featherstone-Godley. During these discussions at the Fidaque and Ciamague in Paris I met representatives of the following nations:

Greece, Captain Nikolaides; Yugoslavia, Colonel Nedich, Dr. Lovrich; Poland, General Roman Goretzkix, General Secretary Kasimirerz Smogorscewski, Major Lydyga Lasckowski, Major Wagner; Belgium, De Pratero, Khorkovs; Hungary, General Graf Takacs-Tlfey --

LT. COMMANDER FREDERICK FELTON: I wonder whether you could have the witness spell these names. I am at a complete loss for their spelling.

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q. Do you have a list of these names?

A. Yes, I have it right here.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Then the names may be given first for the record, and the list may be obtained later for correct spellings. We don't want the names read off the list but the names will be given by the witness and the list submitted later.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

A. (Continuing) Roumania, General Dimescu, Dr. Ispir; Bulgaria, General Nikiforoff, Robeff; Austria, Colonel Baron von Waldstetten; Czechoslovakia, Dr. Lockay. And also during the meeting of the Fidaque I met the American observer from the American Government, a Dr. Ragner.

BY DR. ASCHENAUER:

Q. What was the development of the meeting with the Polish war veterans?

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q. Just a minute. Is that the complete list of names?

A. That is the complete list.

Q. All right, will you pass it on to the Prosecution so that they may take the names down?

A. (The list was handed to the members of the Prosecution)

BY DR. ASCHENAUER:

Q. You may answer the question.

A. The first meeting with the Polish war veterans was concerned the

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Kriegsopferversorgung, or the organization for the victims of the war -- war victims' welfare. The President of the Polish Welfare Organization for War Victims visited me in Berlin -- Major Wagner, in order to discuss and exchange information on this subject in this field. After the meeting with the Fidaque I came to a very close personal friendship with General Goretzki and Kasimirerz Smogorscewski, and it was agreed that delegates were to visit the two nations. And therefore two delegates, one under the Council of Coburg and one under my direction, visited Poland for the duration of about one week. Two Polish delegations under the direction of the Majors Wagner and Ludyga Lasckowski visited the German comrades for several days. The discussions had as their goal a starting of friendly relations between the two nations. That was especially interesting in the person of a Dr. Uretski who is the President of the Bankapostbadafska, regarded as an enemy of Germany. And General Dr. Goretzski visited me in Berlin at that time, and I also had a longer discussion with the President of the German Reichsbank, Dr. Schacht, in which he talked especially of the need and the usefulness of a cooperation and friendship between the two war veterans organizations of Germany and Poland.

Q. Did a German-French and German-English association grow out of these attempts?

A. The German war veterans were co-founders of these organizations. And I am certain that the preparatory work done by these war veterans served to come to a closer friendship and cooperation between the countries. Both the French and the English war veterans aided in setting up the respective groups, that is, the Committee France-Allemande and the Anglo-German Fellowship.

Q. Is it so that the men who knew the war of 1914-1918, and who were heavily represented in the SA, attempted very hard to prevent another catastrophe of this sort?

A. Yes. I as President of one of the welfare organizations for the victims of the war, who saw the injuries to the mind and person that had not healed yet, and as one who saw the socialist tendencies, ideals, of the SA, had to attempt everything. We realized that the unity among the Germans was started in 1933 would not be only stopped but might be smashed for always by another war. We were of the same idea as our comrades from the other trenches. That is why these discussions by the various war veterans had such a great

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repercussion among the men of the S. A., the Party and the entire German people.

Q When were the last visits?

A The last visit in Britain was in the fall of 1938. A delegation of 1,000 German war veterans were the guests of the British Legion and they were welcomed through a speech by Sir Thomas Inskip at Westminster Hall. The last visit from a French delegation was that of Henri Pichot, who together with Daladier took part at the Munich meeting.

Q Was the starting of the war a surprise?

A Yes. It meant the end of our frindship and our cooper tion upon which we had placed a lot of hope. We know that this was would interrupt if not completely end the interior development of Germany. I looked very strongly upon the cooperation between the various war veterans and I am certain that until the last moment these same hopes were carried by the comrades of other nations.

DR. ASCHENAUER: Thank you. I have no further questions.

BY DR. GEORGE BOEHM:

Q Did the SA aid your attempts of friendship and coopera-tion with the other nations?

Were other high SA officials with you during these talks with foreign veterans' organizations?

A Yes. I stated before already that during these talks and discussions Obergruppenfuehrer Jottner and Obergruppenfuehrer Mayer-Quade were constant delegates --

Q But --

A I am not finished with the answer yet. The Chief of Staff many times had Obergruppenfuehrer Mayer-Quade and myself report to him concerning these discussions and he was of the opinior that the high morale -- high views -- that these men had in their countries would lead to closer and friendlier cooperation among all.

Q Were these, persons who talked with leading personali-ties in the foreign war victim welfare organizations?

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A Yes, it was usually always the Presidents, and from the international organizations, virtually all Presidents and Vice-presidents.

Q Did these discussions have a political character?

A No, it was the idea of the war veterans to clear up the field, or an understanding among people so that the politics then could take over.

Q You said before that in the fall of 1928 a thousand members of the war victims welfare organization visited England.

A There were 500 men of the victims organization and 500 of the Reichskriegerbund -- Reich War Veterans.

Q Were among these also SA men?

A Quite a few.

DR. BOEHM: Thank you. I have no further questions.

MR. ANTHONY MARRECO: No questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY M. MONNERAY:

Q Could you state once more what your exact position was inside of the SA main office?

A I was Obergruppenfuehrer ZBE, for special use, which was an honorary post, and I first of all aided the SA in its social attempts. I was an aide to Obergruppenfuehrer Kraemer who was in charge of the social aspects of the SA.

Q So --

A I also in the name of the SA built the Dankopfersiedlungen, the victims thanks settlements.

Q So you were not an appointed official of the main office.

A No.

Q You were only a sort of private adviser, collaborator, of the main office.

A Yes.

Q When you went to Paris did you get in touch with the German Embassy in Paris?

A During my first visit to Paris I visited the German

H0926 - 0023

Embassy. And during the meetings of the Committee France-Allemande mostly gentlemen from the French organization were invited to the German Embassy.

Q Did you meet Monsieur de Brinau?

A Yes.

Q Did you meet Mr. Avetz?

A Yes.

Q Before leaving for your trips abroad, from whom did you get your instructions?

A Usually there were no instructions. I only reported to the aide of Hitler, Ribbentrop.

Q You did not receive any information, any instruction from Ribbentrop's office?

A He always said that we should attempt as much as possible to come to a personal closed friendship, and that was my idea too.

Q Do you know Boehle? Did you meet him?

A Yes.

Q On what occasion?

A Usually during the large meetings of the NSDAP.

Q Did you have contact with the Propaganda Ministry?

A With the Propaganda Ministry only a little.

Q What do you mean by a little?

A I mostly had to do with the Reich Propaganda Office of the NSDAP.

Q Did you meet Rosenberg?

A Yes, but not concerning his foreign policies.

Q On what sector?

A The same way I met Mr. Boehle during these official Party demonstrations.

M. MONNERAY: I have no further questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COLONEL DMITRI KAREV:

Q Did I understand you correctly, that you said that you got in contact with various foreign organizations and parties

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upon the orders of Fascist powers?

A I wish the Prosecution would explain to me what they understand by "Fascist powers."

Q Did you get your orders from Hitler's Government or not?

A I did not --

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Q. -- or from --

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Just a minute. Did we get the witness's last answer in English?

THE INTERPRETER: No.

Q. -- or from the representatives of the Fascist powers.

A. I did not have any kind of Government orders or mission.

Q. You mean was it possible for you to carry out your personal activity without orders from your Government?

A. It was not a question of foreign policy or politics, but all it was, was our attempt to clean the atmosphere between the various nations in order to give the learned diplomats and politicians of those governments a chance to get together afterward.

Q. So you want to say that it was possible for you to be connected with other foreign governments without any orders from the Hitler Government?

A. I stated previously that I did not receive any orders from any government.

Q. Don't you think that your meetings with Ribbentrop and then with the Minister of Propaganda were on his instructions?

A. At the time I received these orders from Ribbentrop, Ribbentrop was not the Foreign Minister, now was he the Ambassador to Britain; but just the foreign policy aide to Hess, in his capacity as Hitler's representative.

Q. So you met Ribbentrop as a representative of the nation, from the party --

A. Yes, certainly.

Q. So the work towards settling friendship with other peoples, with other nations, was only camouflage for the aggressive plans of the Hitlerian Government and the National Socialist Party.

DR. ASCHENAUER: I object to this question.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: It is proper question on cross examination.

Q. Witness, you must know.

A. I want to say that I am certain that both Rudolf Hess and Ribbentrop were earnestly believing that a way of such international cooperation was

possible. That was my idea, too. And I still say today that I believe that such a cooperation and friendship is possible.

COLONEL KAREV: You see, the witness doesn't know about these facts, which are known to everybody -- about the aggressive policies of the Government. So the witness can't answer to these questions.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: There are no further questions, Colonel Karev?

(There were no further questions from Colonel Karev)

LT. COMMANDER FELTON: No questions.

DR. ASCHENAUER: Likewise, I have no further questions.

(The witness was excused, at 1100 hours.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of Hans Oberlindober, taken on 31 May 1946.

John J. Murtha
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F. Tubridy
Commissioner

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